

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

201029Z Sep 04

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 COLOMBO 001557

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ECA/PE/V/R/N-SANA ABED-KOTOB/LARRY MOODY  
INFO: SA/PPD-SHARON E. HUDSON-DEAN

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC SCUL KPAO OEXC

SUBJECT: FY-2005 SRP "RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN THE U.S."  
FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 11, 2005  
PROJECT NUMBER: E/VGN-2005-0015

REF: SANA ABED-KOTOB/ANGELA GEMZA MESSAGE OF 9/15

¶1. POST NOMINATES REV. KIRINDE ASSAJI, BUDDHIST MONK/PRINCIPAL, SRI SUMANGALA DHAMMA SCHOOL, FOR PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT PROJECT.

¶2. POST CONFIRMS THAT THIS NOMINATION HAS "FULL COUNTRY TEAM APPROVAL."

¶3. NOMINATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

START FIXED-FORMAT TEXT (PLEASE DO NOT EDIT):

: The following data is in a fixed format which enables  
: automated processing in Washington and should not be  
: edited except by means of the Post-EVDB software.

EXPORT-SOURCE: POST-EVDB

VERSION: 3.0.7

POST-EMAIL: tilakawardena@state.gov

TRANSMITTING-POST: PAS Colombo

TRANSMITTING-POST-ID: 2929

EXPORT-TYPE: BIO DATA

START NOMINATION:

ECA-OFFICE: E/VGN

PROG-AGENCY-NAME:

POST-PROJ-ID: 86

ECA-PROJ-NO: E/VGN-2004-0018

PROJ-NAME: Religious Diversity in the U.S. - February  
21-March 11, 2005

START MEMO PROJ-DESC:

END MEMO PROJ-DESC:

PROJ-TYPE: Regional

PROG-TYPE: IV Group Projects

FY: 2005

DEPART-POST: 02/19/2005

SESSION-DATE: 02/21/2005

RETURN-POST: 03/12/2005

NO-OF-PART: 1

RANK-ORDER: 1

START MEMO POST-OBJ:

This nomination is in support of MPP goals on  
"Democracy" and "Mutual Understanding"

END MEMO POST-OBJ:

START MEMO POST-RCMD:

END MEMO POST-RCMD:

ECA-OFFICE-ID: 1039

PROG-AGENCY-ID:

PROJ-TYPE-ID: RP

PROG-TYPE-ID: 31

NOMINATING-POST-ID: 2929

FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:

STATUS: N

ORIGINATOR: P

SUBJ-DISC: Religion

START BIO:

PREFIX: Dr.

F-NAME: Kirinde

M-NAME:

L-NAME: ASSAJI

SUFFIX: Thero

POSITION-CODE: 350

PRINCIPAL?: Yes

M-ADDR1: Gangarama Temple

M-ADDR2: 61 Sri Jinarathana Road

M-ADDR3: Hunupitiya

M-CITY: Colombo 2

M-STATE:

M-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

M-ZONE:

M-ZIP:

M-PHONE: (94-11) 243-5169

M-FAX: (94-11) 243-9508

M-EMAIL: asaji@log.lk

M-CNTRY-ID: CE

M-ADDRTYPE: B

GENDER: M

DOB: 03/20/1968

MAR-STAT: S

BIRTH-CITY: Matara

BIRTH-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
CITIZ-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
RES-CNTRY: Sri Lanka  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Buddhist Monk/Principal, Sri Sumangala Dhamma School  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
Director, Information and Technology Section of Sri  
Jinarathana Vocational Training Centre  
Religious Advisor, Sri Jinarathana Bhikku Abhyasa  
Vidyalaya Karaka Sabawa  
END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
May, 2002 - private visit  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:

END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
Final Examination of Oriental Studies Society  
(equivalent to the B.A.(Hon.) degree), 1990  
M.A., University of Delhi, India, 1995  
Ph.D., University of Delhi, India, 1998  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:

END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:

END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: Sinhala  
ENGL-READ: 3  
ENGL-SPEAK: 3  
ENGL-COMP: 3  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: Japanese  
OTHER-LANG-ID: JA  
READ: 3  
SPEAK: 3  
COMP: 3  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
This nomination is in support of MPP goals on  
"Democracy" and "Mutual Understanding"  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:

END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Angela Gemza  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
Rev. Assaji is a bit unusual among the Buddhist clergy because of his regular contact with individuals who are not Sinhala Buddhists. His temple is conducting IT training for all sections of the community. Part of the difficulty of the peace process is a lack of understanding and communication between the different ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Through constant contacts with all sections of society, Rev. Assaji is doing his part in bridging differences and establishing mutual understanding between the Sinhala, the Tamil and the Muslim communities. Post can further promote these activities which promote social stability by exposing Rev. Assaji to the concepts behind multiculturalism and religious diversity in the U.S.  
Rev. Assaji, who belongs to the Malwatte chapter of the Buddhist establishment, is also an important contact for the Mission. He is a resident of the Gangarama Temple, which is closely affiliated to a number of senior politicians of the opposition United National Party.  
Post believes that Rev. Assaji will be an ideal candidate for participation in SA/RP on "Religious Diversity in the U.S." since his exposure to the U.S. and to this project will bring a multiplier effect.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
NOM-OFF: Public Affairs  
SPEAKER?: No  
NOTIFY-EMB: Yes  
MEDIA?: No  
HOME-STAY: No  
HOME-HOSP?: Yes  
E-I-TYPE:  
NOMINEE-ID: 121

PERSON-ID: 125  
BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: CE  
CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: CE  
RES-CNTRY-ID: CE  
FIRST-LANG-ID: SI  
E-I-TYPE-ID:  
NOM-POST-ID: 2929  
NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:  
NOM-STATUS: N  
DS2019-ACTION: 1  
DS2019-SUBJECT: 45.9999  
SPONS-FUNDS: 0  
SPONS-AGENCY1: DOS  
USGOVT-AGENCY1: DOS  
US-AGENCY-AMT1: 8000  
USGOVT-AGENCY2:  
US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0  
INTL-ORG1:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0  
INTL-ORG2:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0  
VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0  
COMMISSION: 0  
OTHER-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-CAT: 5  
END BIO:  
END NOMINATION:  
END FIXED-FORMAT TEXT:

14. PLEASE ADVISE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS NOMINATION.  
LUNSTEAD